

heritage from the Greek and Lombard days; they are called catapans, gastalds, *strategi*; while viscounts and baillis (*bajuli*) represent the Norman superstructure. To simplify the question, one may say that the normal local agent of the ducal power is the bailli, whose office is the same whether he be called so or catapan or gastald. The bailli supervises the demesne lands, collects the aids and other dues owing to the duke, watches over the forest, and exercises criminal jurisdiction.

It does not concern us here to show to whom he was answerable in the days of the duchy, since we shall sketch the superstructure built on this foundation by the royal government.

The central administration at Palermo was called, as it was called in every Latin kingdom, the *Curia Regis*. In the fully-organised government which Roger II. left to his successor, we find it to consist of high officials, officers of the Household, prelates, and occasional vassals of the Crown. It was to the Curia Regis that appeals went from all courts of the realm, it was to this supreme tribunal that the highest criminal justice was reserved, and here disputes between King and subject, vassal and vassal, and other cases involving land and

privileges were settled. The actual nucleus of government itself was naturally smaller. There developed a Privy Council of the King, which under Roger's successors bore the Greek name *protospatharios*, composed of the highest officials of the Crown who are also as members